

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1, 4-10, 12-19, and 45-47 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants are canceling claims 45-47 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants cancellation of rejected claims 45-47 is in no way a concession of the merits of the outstanding rejection; accordingly, Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these currently rejected claims in one or more continuation applications claiming priority to the instant application under 35 U.S.C. §120. No claims have been amended or added. As a result, claims 1, 4-10, and 12-19 are pending for examination with claims 1 and 12 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's finding that claims 1, 4-10, and 12-19 are allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102/103

In the Office Action, claims 45-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmid (U.S. Patent No. 2,767,605) in view of Grimaldo (U.S. Patent No. 4,211,103), Ceccacci (U.S. Patent No. 4,383,429), or Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 4,827,754). Claims 45 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy (U.S. Patent No. 3,164,045) in view of Grimaldo, Ceccacci, or Tanaka. Claims 45 and 46 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either one of Tanaka or Ceccacci in view of Schmid, and claims 45 and 47 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grimaldo in view of Kennedy.

Without acceding to the propriety of these above claim rejections, Applicants have cancelled claims 45-47 to expedite prosecution and place this application in condition for allowance.

In view of these cancellations, it is believed that the basis of these rejections has been rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

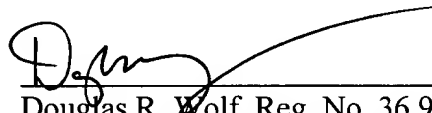
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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